

Message

From: Thomas, Craig [thomas.craig@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/26/2015 12:15:37 PM
To: Poy, Thomas [poy.thomas@epa.gov]; Maraldo, Dean [Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov]; Opie, Jodie [opie.jodie@epa.gov]; Brown, Alicia [brown.alicia@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: FEMA Region V Open Source Summary 06-26-2015

FYI,

A couple of articles that may be of interest under the water sector

Craig Thomas
 US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
 Emergency Response Branch
 77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
 Chicago, IL 60604
 312-886-5907 office
 312-802-9637 cell



From: FEMA-R5-Watch [mailto:FEMA-R5-Watch@fema.dhs.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 5:05 AM
Subject: FEMA Region V Open Source Summary 06-26-2015

FEMA Region V Open Source Summary
Regional Points of Interest
 Friday, June 26, 2015

Regional Weather and Impacts

Storm socks metro-east, causes widespread outages

(Belleville News-Democrat)

Southwest, Illinois: Emergency crews were in for the long haul overnight Thursday into Friday morning after thunderstorms that packed strong winds, heavy rain and hail slammed the metro-east. Nearly 23,900 Ameren Illinois customers were out of power as of 11 p.m. as outages spread from as far north as Alton to near Smithton and from East St. Louis to near Scott Air Force Base. Areas most heavily affected include parts of East St. Louis, Brooklyn, Fairmont City, Centreville and Fairview Heights. According to police and fire radio transmissions, emergency crews and utility workers scrambled to handle reports of downed power lines and lightning strikes to structures across the region. The St. Clair County Emergency Management Agency said in a statement on its Facebook page that Ameren Illinois had activated its Emergency Operations Center and would have additional crews ready to respond to reported outages throughout the night.

Waves of storms through Friday evening increase flooding threats

(4 KMOV)

Southwest Illinois: The St. Louis Metro and surrounding areas will deal with waves of rain and storms through Friday evening. Parts of the area from the Metro East to Lincoln County were hammered with heavy rain late Thursday evening. From Hawk Point to Troy and Winfield, MO, 4 to 6 inches of rain fell in just a few hours. Flash flooding in these areas will be ongoing through sunrise, especially if they are hit again by downpours and storms. Scattered showers and storms are likely on and off all night and through Friday evening. The high will only be 80, but the humidity is expected to remain relatively high. Some storms may produce isolated heavy rain and cause flooding. A few severe storms are possible, so we will keep an eye out for damaging hail and winds. The rain will taper off during the evening. The weekend is expected to be dry.

Beardstown braces for Illinois River flooding

(Connect Tristates)

Beardstown, Illinois: The Illinois River is beginning to swell in Beardstown, Illinois. On Thursday afternoon, the river level was 26.2 feet, and the National Weather Service expects the river to crest to 27.2 feet by noon on Sunday. As the river rises, the city is bracing for any damage that could occur. Two sinkholes have developed on Main Street about 300 feet from the river. They're caused by fluctuating water levels in the sewer system under the road. Crews are watching the streets, looking for low areas where rain water tends to settle. Beardstown Director of Public Works Gary Hamilton said the area on Main Street is a major truck route, which is why the sinkholes are a concern. Entrances to some Beardstown athletic fields have been closed due to flooding as well. Graham said despite it all, there's only one scenario that makes him nervous. "When the water starts seeping and they start sandbagging. Then we get nervous." Graham said.

More rains bring new flooding fears to Kankakee

(CBS Chicago)

Kankakee, Illinois: Hundreds of homes in far south suburban Kankakee have been inundated with water this month, and the Kankakee River was continuing to rise, after another round of rain overnight. Even before a large storm cell passed through overnight, Kankakee already had seen 15 inches of rain in June, so any more could be catastrophic for some residents and business owners. Susan Faber walked through shin-deep floodwaters in front of her Kankakee home Thursday morning, but that was progress. Two days ago, the only way to get around was by boat. To make matters worse she and her neighbors on Riverview Court have no drinking water. "We had boats and canoes we went back and forth with to get water, and such forth, because everybody's water is out. You can't use your wells when they're underwater," she said. The Kankakee County Sheriff's Department and the local YMCA also have set up a shelter for residents who have been forced out of their homes due to the flooding. Flood stage for the river in Kankakee is 5 feet, and officials were expecting the river to crest at 7 feet by Thursday evening before water begins to recede.

When parks flood, the costs add up

(89.1 WBOI)

Indiana: The parks near Fort Wayne's rivers are designed to flood – they work as reservoirs to protect property. While many parks have been reopened this week after recent heavy rains, portions of Foster and Swinney Park remain under water, and in need of extensive clean up. Parks Director Al Moll says the problem isn't insurmountable. "We'll recover from everything, it's just how long it's going to take," Moll said. "The case in point is Foster Park: we've had to cease golf operations out there." Moll says the golf course may be closed another three to four weeks, costing up to \$150,000 in lost revenue. Tack on another potential \$100,000 in clean up, and that's a quarter-million dollar hit to the Parks Department. Moll says Parks doesn't plan for floods, and just needs to absorb the costs into its budget. This week's cleanup will entail property restoration, planting grass, and sanitizing playgrounds and pavilions.

Illinois on track for fifth wettest June on record

(The Register Mail)

Illinois: With five days left in the month, it's still too early to tell if June's rainfall is breaking any records, but one thing is for sure: Illinois is experiencing a very wet month. Based on National Weather Service forecasts, the storms aren't letting up anytime soon. Following constant rains in the wake of Tropical Storm Bill, Wednesday night's storm continued to pelt the Midwest into Thursday morning, making for saturated farm land and crops sitting in water. At 7.11 inches of rainfall as of Sunday, this month was on track to become the fifth wettest June in Illinois history. In light of the most recent storms, state climatologist Jim Angel said he "wouldn't be surprised if we have the wettest month on record, statewide." The current wettest June was set in 1902 with 8.27 inches of total rainfall. For local farmers, the damage is noticeable,

but manageable for the time being. Andrew Bowman, a fifth generation farmer in Oneida and chairman of the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education, said his crop is in good shape, but not perfect. "We are in a garden spot compared to most areas of the Corn Belt," Bowman said. "We have some wet spots starting to emerge, meaning water is standing too long. We are seeing corn and bean fields turning yellow instead of green."

5 Indiana counties receive help for flood damage

(21 Live NBC 33)

Indiana: A semi-load of items was available at the North Adams Church of Christ in Decatur after flooding affected the people in the area. These items were donated through the Church of Christ Disaster Relief Effort and were meant to benefit those who had been affected by flood damage. Jim Voglewede, Minister of North Adams Church of Christ, said, "This is for anybody in a five-county area. We've got Adams County. We're like in the middle. Allen County is north. Wells County, Jay County, Van Wert County...all these different areas had flood disasters. So we're here to help anybody in those particular areas." "Disinfectant, bleach, all-purpose cleanser, buckets, mops, rubber gloves, sponges-anything that you would need to clean up-we've got several hundred of those items available," said Voglewede. Along with the cleaning items, food baskets, bottled water, and toiletries were also available.

Update on Starved Rock State Park conditions

(The Times)

Starved Rock, Illinois: The Route 178 entrance to Starved Rock State Park is open Monday through Friday, yet will be closed weekends until further notice due to traffic control purposes. The visitor center will remain open with normal business hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Parking will be available during the week at the Starved Rock Lodge (Route 71 entrance). Visitors are asked to use caution while hiking at Starved Rock and Matthiessen. Trails will be wet and muddy in areas. Swimming and wading is prohibited in the park. If you encounter trails that are flooded turn back. Park staff continue to monitor the flood situation.

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

Water Sector

Heidelberg University water quality lab expecting larger algal bloom than predicted

(Toledo News Now)

Toledo, Ohio: Researchers are keeping a close eye on Lake Erie following last year's toxic algae outbreak that virtually shut the City of Toledo down for two days. With a higher-than-average rainfall this June, researchers at the National Center for Water Quality lab at Heidelberg University are saying that this year's Lake Erie algal bloom could be just as bad as last year. But it's still too early to tell how, if at all, it will affect the drinking water. The center collects three samples a day from 18 locations across the state to test river water for phosphorous and nitrogen levels. June's readings have shown that the rainy month has discharged the second highest amount of water from the Maumee River since 1981. According to Laura Johnson, researcher at the National Center for Water Quality Research lab, this means there is much more nutrient run-off in the lake than previously predicted. "We were predicting a very minimal bloom, possibly a little bit higher than 2012. But now we are up to probably around 2014 levels, 2013 possibly," said Johnson. Researchers are still saying this should not be a cause for alarm. The full algal bloom doesn't occur until early August, so conditions could change over the next six weeks.

DNR says Waukesha has 'no alternative' to Lake Michigan for drinking water

(12 ABC)

Waukesha, Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources believes that Waukesha has no alternatives to taking water from Lake Michigan. A draft of the DNR's five-year Environmental Impact Statement and Technical Review, released Thursday, says the city's application for lake water meets requirements of the Great Lakes Compact. The city's current aquifer contains high levels of radium and does not naturally replenish at a fast rate because of shale rock in the area. City officials said long-term use of the aquifer is not an option. The city wants permission to pull up to 16.7 million gallons a day and return treated wastewater to the lake. Waukesha is located on the edge of the Great Lakes Basin. Water drawn from the Great Lakes must be returned to the same watershed. The city would return treated water to the Root River, which flows back to Lake Michigan. Officials believe that this proposal could help restore the flow of the Root River. The DNR will hold public hearings on the draft later this summer before making revisions and forwarding it to

other states for approval. The proposal must be approved by all governors of Great Lakes states. The premiers of Ontario and Quebec, and affected tribes and First Nations will also be consulted before a final decision is made.

Emergency Management/Preparedness Sector

Are vandals trying to sabotage DuPage County flood control project?

(CBS Chicago)

DuPage County, Illinois: A DuPage County official suspects someone is trying to sabotage a flood control project that's nearly complete in Carol Stream. DuPage County Board Member Jim Zay, who chairs the DuPage Water Commission, said it was thought at first that kids were behind the broken construction vehicle windows, doors, and control panels at Armstrong Park, where the Klein Creek Flood Mitigation Project began a year ago. Then, some trees and bushes were taken; and, recently, someone was seen running away from the flood control system's 60-inch pipe. Deputy Police Chief Dan Hoffman said investigators are following a couple leads, and will be doing an extra patrol at Armstrong Park. Zay said he believes an area resident is causing all the trouble, because he or she does not like how the park might have changed the resident's view of the park, or access to the park from his or her property.

Communications/Information Technology Sector

A research company discovered the login credentials from 47 government agencies just sitting in plain sight on the internet

(Business Insider)

Nation: New research indicates that the login credentials of government employees have been online for years. Threat intelligence company Recorded Future just released a bombshell report indicating that these credentials are associated with 47 US government agencies. This data was discovered in plain sight, on what are called paste sites such as Pastebin. This discovery means that a government email and password unit were openly posted by potential hackers. While there's no way to know if these leaked credentials are what led to the OPM hack, they do highlight that proper security protocol is not in place at many government agencies to prevent such things from happening.

Best Regards,

Mario J. Ferro

Watch Analyst, Regional Watch Center
FEMA Region V, Response Division
536 S. Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 408-5498/5365 (Office)
(312) 780-9659 (Blackberry)
mario.ferro@fema.dhs.gov